

Orange Factory Village, House No. 14
Old Orange Factory Road (St. Rt. 1628)
Durham
Durham County
North Carolina

HABS No. NC-9 H

HABS
NC,
82-000A,
9-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ORANGE FACTORY VILLAGE, HOUSE No. 14

HABS No. NC-9 H

HABS
NC
32-ORFA,
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Location:

Old Orange Factory Road, Durham County, NC
(Number 14)
USCS NW/4 Durham North 15' Quadrangle, Universal
Transverse Mercator Coordinates
17.691100.4000070

Present Owner:

Susanne Schneider
Real Estate Administrator
101 City Hall Plaza
Durham, NC 27701

Present Occupant:

Demolished, summer 1984

Significance:

The Orange Factory houses, dating from the 1860's were built to accommodate employees of one of the earliest cotton mills in North Carolina. They assume historical significance as components of the mill complex and as the former nucleus of a company village, Orange Factory, North Carolina.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1850's to 1860's
2. Original and subsequent owners: Pages 33-36 of Orange Factory Village, H No. NC-9, show the chain of title to the land on which the house stands.
3. Original plans and construction: No original drawings or plans have been located. Two story, three-bay wide frame house is original. Only upper story windows retain Greek revival trim.
4. Alterations and additions: Shed roof front porch with ironwork posts. Shed addition with porch across rear. Shed roof wing on the west side of the house. Double shoulder chimney on the west side with replacement brick stack; below stack, chimney is stuccoed-over stone. Two second-story windows closed in.

B. Historical Context:

Orange Factory, a small rural mill village located in the Little River valley, dates from the 1850's and provides an important picture of the early stages in the development of industrial life in North Carolina. Its collection of Greek Revival style workers' housing represents one of perhaps less than five remaining examples in North Carolina of pre-Civil War mill workers' housing. The remains of the cotton factory, water race system and grist mill, along with the dam, workers' housing with garden plots, supervisors' houses, schoolhouse, church, cemetery and well show the physical context in which the social and economic life of this self-sustaining community functioned. Orange Factory village is representative of the period when industrial sites were dependent on water power and thus located along the waterways of North Carolina in relatively isolated, rural settings. Unlike some early industrial sites which developed into larger towns, and other later ones which started out in more urban settings, Orange Factory has retained its small-scale, rural atmosphere indicative of the early mill villages in the state.

Prepared from materials cited in
Orange Factory Village, HABS No. NC-9, by

Annette Liggett
Environmental Coordinator
City of Durham
March 1984

(House Number 14)

PART II ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Constructed as part of the Orange Factory Mill complex, this worker's house typifies the wood framed, clapboard sided worker's houses which constituted mid-nineteenth century, rural vernacular architecture. In general, they are I plan, center hall, two story structures with one story additions.
2. Condition of the fabric: The exterior masonry was in sound condition as were the clapboard walls, windows and doors. Roofs were generally in good condition. The structure was scheduled to be demolished during the summer of 1984.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The two story section of the house is 20'-6-1/4" x 17'-7". The single story addition in the rear measures 40'-3-3/8" x 14'-7". The front porch on the north side of the house measures 16'-3-3/4" x 5'-10-1/2". The rear porch on the south side measures 18'-5" x 6'-9-7/8".
2. Foundations: Concrete masonry units provide support for the house.
3. Walls: The two story main section of the house and the eastern half of the rear wing are clad in painted wood, horizontal clapboard siding with 5" exposure. The siding is terminated at the corners with painted wood, double cornerboards. The west half of the rear addition is clad in painted, beaded wood, horizontal siding with a 5" exposure.
4. Structural system, framing: The interior and exterior walls were constructed with wood studs which supported wood floor joists, neither of which were accessible. The roof system consisted of wood rafters (exposed external to the house at the eaves) and it is assumed from the upper story configuration that the rafters were connected with wood ties.
5. Porches: The front porch is a raised concrete slab floor six (6) steps above grade and supported on a concrete block foundation wall. The shed roof which runs the length of the porch is supported by four (4) steel, open trellis columns. The porch is open, without handrails. The rear porch is a

wood framed deck with wood floorboards supported by two (2) large, rectangular posts and the poured in place concrete steps. The porch is seven (7) steps above grade. A shed roof which runs the length of the porch is supported by three (3) wood posts with angled brackets at their tops. A post and rail handrail surrounds two sides of the porch.

Although not technically a porch, a car-port shelter which consist of a metal shed roof supported by two (2) steel, open truss frame columns, is attached to the west elevation of the rear addition.

6. Chimneys: A single, large brick chimney abuts the west end of the two-story section of the house. The masonry structure originally served two (2) fireplaces, (one on each floor). The lower half of the chimney is covered in stucco and is corbelled at its base, twice near the middle of its height, and also at its cap.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and Doors: The front door (north elevation) is wood, containing nine (9) lights over three (3) horizontal raised panels. The doorway is surrounded by a flat board architrave.
 - b. Windows: The front (north) side of the house includes two over two sash windows with wide board architraves on the first floor and six over six double hung sash with fluted architraves with corner blocks on the upper floor. Two (2) windows on the upper floor were removed and have been infilled with wood clapboard siding over studs. The side wing contains one, four over four, double hung window with a narrow board frame. The west elevation has a window with two over two double hung sash and narrow board frame. The south elevation includes one and two (2) light fixed sash set into narrow board frames in the cellar. A two over two double hung sash set in narrow board frames with a metal awning, and two set in wide board frames exist on the first floor. Two double hung, six over six sash set in frames with fluted frames with corner blocks exist on the second floor. The east elevation includes two windows with two over two sash with wide flat board architraves on the first floors protected by metal awnings.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The two story section is roofed with a simple gable. The rear addition and all porches are covered with simple shed roofs. All are clad in corrugated, galvanized tin.
- b. Cornice, eaves: A simple, flat board forms the barge board at either end of the roofs. The eaves overhang with exposed rafter tails without cornices.
- c. Dormers, towers: None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Cellar: A low ceiling, dirt floor cellar exists beneath the main and rear sections of the house.
 - b. First floor: the entry door from the front porch leads into a front parlor with a fireplace on the outside (west) wall. A doorway to the east leads from the parlor into a smaller room with folding, collapsible stairs which lead to the second floor. The kitchen is located to the south of this room, located in the rear addition. A doorway on the west side of the kitchen leads into the dining room. A doorway to the west leads into a short hall off of which is a full bath and a bedroom with a large closet.
 - c. Second floor: A single, large room with a fireplace on the west wall and folding stairs to the first floor occupies the entire second floor of the front portion of the house.
 - d. Attic: Inaccessible.
2. Stairways: the original stair of the house, connecting the first and second floors, has been removed. Within the opening of this stairway there has been installed a collapsible, folding "hide-a-stair".
 3. Flooring: The flooring throughout the house consists of regular width pine floor boards, painted in some rooms and stained in others.
 4. Wall and ceiling finish: First floor walls and ceilings are painted plaster. Second floor walls and ceilings are finished in painted boards.

5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Interior doorways are trimmed with simple, flat boards. Doors are solid wood with either five (5) or six (6) horizontal panels.
- b. Windows: All exterior openings are trimmed in simple, flat boards.

6. Decorative features and trim: The interior is plain and devoid of trim. The only notable feature are the two fireplace surrounds which consist of wide, unmolded boards with a flat shelf board supported by diagonal braces. The hearths are of brick laid in a diagonal herring bone pattern.

7. Hardware: The doors were hung on simple cast butt hinges and operated with surface mounted rim locks with china knobs. Window sash locks were simple metal castings.

8. Mechanical equipment:

- a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: Heat was provided by an oil fired hot air furnace. Cooling is provided by portable window units. Ventilation is achieved through open windows.
- b. Lighting: The house is equipped with wiring, outlets, and a few rooms hve modest ceiling mounted light fixtures.
- c. Plumbing: The house is equipped with plumbing including well water and a septic system.

D. Site:

- 1. General setting and orientation: The house faces north and is sited at the east end of a dirt road leading to Old Orange Factory Road. The ground slopes moderately from the northwest to the southeast side of the house.
- 2. Historic landscape design: The immediate area on which the house is sited includes a grass lawn which surrounds the house and a few shrubs placed at random, away from the structure. Large trees border the site on the south and west sides of the house.
- 3. Outbuildings. None

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Early views:

1913 Sanborn Insurance Map

1937 Sanborn Insurance Map

B. Interviews:

Interviews are cited in Orange Factory Village, HABS No. NC-9, on page 46.

C. Bibliography:

Secondary and published sources: The major source for all material was Cultural Resource Investigations at Orange Factory, Libscomb's and Johnston's Mills, Durham Co., NC prepared by Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc., Newark Delaware, in December 1983. Other sources were those cited in that document, as shown.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Due to the proposed construction of a water supply reservoir by the City of Durham, a Memorandum of Agreement was designed which would assure the mitigation of impact to defined significant cultural resources within the reservoir basin. These included archaeological resources consisting of three mill sites and a mill village, Orange Factory; the architectural resources at the mill village (workers houses), and the history and folk-lifeways of the villagers. The necessary data recovery operations, as specified in the MOA, were conducted by Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc. and qualified consultants. This was accomplished during the spring and summer of 1983. Data recovered concerns 18th and 19th century grist mills, a 19th and early 20th century textile mill operation, and the 19th and 20th century workers village and community residents.

The combination of historical sites archaeology, historic documentary research, architectural recordation, and oral history studies, was generally effective in assuring the preservation of much of the cultural background and details of the rural North Carolina industrial complex.